AKA NEWSLETTER

MAY ISSUE

9502 NATIONAL BLVD. LOS ANGELES 34, CALIFORNIA

The National Organization announces the opening of its new headquarters at 9502 NATIONAL BLVD. LOS ANGELES 34, CALIFORNIA. Please address all mail to that address.

Now that the oils have settled upon the troubled waters, things can once again begin to run smoothly. We have a roof over our heads...two actively operating chapters...two more presently to come into being...and a NEWSLETTER off the press.

If all the brothers (and sisters) will cooperate with the National in the future things can hum along without too much headache. First of all we need information...under separate cover you will receive a question form, please fill it in to the best of your ability and mail it to National Headquarters IMMEDIATELY. This form will enable us to function properly and to keep in touch with all of you wherever you may be.

Secondly, we would like to have any articles you may care to write dealing with motion pictures--radio--television or any allied fields. This would be used to pass information along to the entire fraternity through the NEWSLETTER.

Please keep us posted every few weeks as to the happenings in your local chapters..so that we may keep abreast of local news.

Mel Stark

THE MEANING AND VALUE OF MONTAGE

by Prof. Slavko Vorkapich

Montage is French for any kind of mounting, assembling, putting together. Like many other words it has a general and a special meaning. Thus, the making of a complete picture (assembling and putting together of individual strips of film) is Montage in its general meaning.

Its special meaning, with which we are concerned, denotes: Putting together two or more images, one next to another, one after another, or one on top of (superimposed on) another to depict an event, to suggest a lapse of time, to convey an idea, to arouse an emotion, to express a state of mind, to create a mood or "atmosphere". This mounting of images, besides being expressive, must possess a certain visual rhythm.

The principle of Montage is not new. It is as old as human expression, language, or art. When an American Indian wants to tell another from a different tribe that he is happy he makes signs with his hands for 'Sunrise--in--the--Heart'. He puts together two apparently unrelated images and lo! an expression visual and rich is born. A perfect Montage!

When LIFE's advertising artist wants to convey the idea that LIFE is "an eye that thinks--an eye with a brain!" he puts together a picture of a camera with a picture of an academic cap (TIME, Sept. 19, 1938) and achieves a striking expression.

Up to now, Montage has been used in motion pictures mainly for one of the two following reasons: To intensify the excitement of an event, usually consisting of rapid or violent action, (battle scenes, riots, catastrophes, chases, etc.) or as a footage-saving device depicting a series of events or scenes which, if done in the ordinary narrative way, would take up so much film footage(so-called time lapses.)

It is perhaps because, at present, Montage is chiefly used to convey a great deal in a relatively short time, that many people get the erroneous idea that Montage is nothing but "a series of quick impressionistic flashes."

Montage is in reality a film style of its own, and a very elastic one at that, which uses purely means, including all the possibilities of the camera of movement, of rhythm, and of cutting, to express feelings and thoughts and to tell stories.

Besides "straight" cutting Montage often avails itself of those wonderful visual expressive possibilities of the film: lap-dissolves, double exposures, slow motion, reverse action, etc. That is perhaps why some people think that Montage is nothing but a jumble of "camera tricks". They are tricks only when they are used for their own sake (as for instance when, in a trailer, a picture suddenly flops over for no reason at all) and not as a most graphic means of expressing something. In the latter case "tricks" become possibilities. Who would accuse a musical composer of trickery for using all the possibilities of his instruments to best express his themes?

So far the possibilities of Montage have been barely touched upon. Practically it has proved to be a valuable economical device in regular productions; artistically it could become a true filmic form of expression.

But even now the basic principles that govern Montage could be applied to whole productions. Like a good Montage sequence, a picture should have: rhythm, tempo, movement, visual change and imagery. These being the true filmic elements the audiences readily react to them. Even though quite crude..the early pictures contained a great deal of these elements. Audiences loved them. We mightsay that audiences were always "Montage subconscious".

CINEMA BUILDING PROJECT PROGRESSES

Those alums who have been away from Cinema for a couple of years would hardly recognize the Cinema building. The modifications to the wing formerly occupied by the band are completed and the installation of equipment is progressing rapidly.

The former band rehearsal room (from which used to emanate sour clarinet notes and "Fight On" is now a sound stage, entirely sound treated with glass wool and equipped with 1600 amps of power.

Room 8 has now become a 100-seat projection room with acoustic plaster walls, indirect cone lighting, a large sound speaker system, drapes, and a new large concrete projection booth equipped with 35 mm Simplex Arc Projectors and Western Electric Sound.

To top things off, the room now has proper ventilation and air cooling.

The Audio-Visual Service Department now occupies the entire area formerly band and orchestra offices, plus the old machine shop and sound control room. The entire area has been revamped and finished in acoustic plaster to include office space, a small preview room, equipment and film storage, and ozalid duplicating equipment.

Also included in this area is the Sound Section consisting of two studios, master control room and machine room. The equipment racks and lines are nearly installed and the amplifiers, equalizers, and all the rest of the parts are steadily finding their way into place.

The facilities will include all types of disc, magnetic, and sound-on-film equipment and transmission lines will tie this sound installation to the new Letters, Arts, and Sciences Building and to KUSC, the university's Frequency Modulation station.

The next project, soon to be started, is the remodeling of the west side of the building to provide, among other things, for the new Cinema Arts & Crafts 16mm continuous processing machine which the University recently purchased. But that is another story for later. Why not drop down for a "Cook's Tour" when you are in these parts? * * *

ABOUT ALPHA

* Graduating seniors and graduate students are getting hep to the idea of "whither goest thou" in June. Each one is hoping his great talent will be discovered. We know we all have great talent --now if only someone else important would make that discovery.
* Alpha chapter is posting a list of all graduating seniors and graduate students for June and sending it to prospective employers along with each person's qualifications. It has never been tried before and we hope it may give those employers an opportunity to know what some of us are prepared to do.
* Wedding bells will soon be ringing for brothers Sam Slavik and Mel Sapiro who are anticipating June weddings.
*Hal Albert came in to give a final exam one morning with a beaming face; he was the proud papa of a baby girl.
* We no longer hear so many complaints from John Norwood--the new John David takes his time and thought.
* The semester's activities will end Sunday night, May 15, with the initiation of sixteen new members at the spring banquet at Mike Lyman's on S. Hill St.
* Several highly interesting evenings were spent this semester when the membership and guests heard talks from and engaged in discussion with such notables of the industry as Hal Roach, Jr., producer of television films; 16 mm Producer Carl Dudley; Jerry Brush, Universal-International producer; and William Cameron Menzies, Dean of Production Designers of the Industry.

DKA PREMIERE DANCE PRONOUNCED SUCCESS

What a dance!! The Motion Picture Premiere Dance we had on March 12 on the Sound Stage was a terrific success. There were people all over the new sound stage watching movies, dancing, munching donuts and coffee around the open fireplace in the chapter room and they all seemed to be enjoying every minute of it.

It was amazing to see how much the boys enjoyed the planning and decorating before the dance under the direction of Anton Schmalz.

Everyone pitched in and decorated the stage which gave a perfect background for a perfect affair. The dance began at eight and went into the wee hours. The last couple left only out of sheer exhaustion. Everyone had a good time--and from the talk in the department, all want another dance soon!!

Pictures shown during the evening included:

Mr. Vorkapich's "Fingal's Cave"
"Music Out of the Moon" by Paul Garrison
"Earl Moran Paints" by Bill Morrison
"Frankie and Johnny" by Sam Slavik and Tom Gavey
"End of Main Street"
"The Judas Coin" --both Imppro Inc. productions
"The Erwin Family" by Hal Roach Jr.

For dancing, Soundies, featuring some of the best bands in the land, were projected on the screen at one end of the Stage.

The $1.50 per couple from the eighty couples bought an asphalt tile floor for the DKA chapter room with the fraternity emblem embossed in the floor. Norton Sokolow is to be thanked for his part in securing this for us at a reduced rate.

We would also like to add a note of appreciation to Mr. Morheim for the greenery which did so much to give the proper atmosphere for the opening of the new sound stage.

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DKA HISTORY

In order to bring all active members of Delta Kappa Alpha up to date on the background of the fraternity, the National has compiled a brief history of the fraternity from its inception to the present roster of officers.

The fraternity was founded as a local venture, Alpha chapter, on March 16, 1936, by Allan K. Dallas at the University of Southern California in Bridge Hall. Dr. Boris V. Morkovin was the head of the Cinema department at the time.

The initials DKA, you may note, stand not only for the fraternal name, but Allan K. Dallas backwards, so Serutan has nothing on us.

The charter members were:

Allan K. Dallas	Terry Bissinger
William Halpern	Robert V. Rogers
Jack Findlater	Louis Tarleton
Donald Fischer	Robert Turner
Jack McClelland	Peter Kinnel

The department was bulging at the seams--so it was removed to Old College basement--at which time Warren P. Scott made his entrance as assistant to Dr. Morkovin.

Then came the "putsch"--we moved to Arts & Architecture--and remodelled it completely to form the Cinema Workshop. Here Scott and Jack McClelland forged to the front and Cinema was on a firm basis--with DKA leading the field.

The Newsletters and Journal (an annual magazine) were conceived in 1938.

Now the need for a National organization became apparent--with graduates wanting to remain in the fraternity. Jack McClelland became first National president in 1939 and a Constitution was drawn.

From that day forward, the National has grown to encompass about 120 members--and has served as a mainstay to USC Cinema.

(Continued next page)

DKA HISTORY (CONTINUED)

This year the Beta and Gamma chapters are in the throes of formation, with the Gamma having been granted a chapter in New York University--and the Beta seeking sanction from UCLA.

The present chapter presidents are:

Alpha - USC - Sam Slavik
Gamma - NYU - Albert Casutto

The National officers are:
President...Herbert L. Strock
Vice-President...Wilbur Blume
Secretary.....John Norwood
Treasurer.....Lyman Hallowell

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DKA SPRING ROUNDUP PLANNED

Another dance is in the air!! DKA is collaborating with National for a second successful dance (we hope!) to be held May 14 on the Cinema Sound Stage.

The motif will be Western. The chapter room will be turned into a chuck wagon complete with coffee, donuts, hot dogs roasted over the open fire, and gossip.

Soundie movies, which proved so successful at the first dance, will be projected for dancing on the stage.

Extra entertainment includes a full hour's screening of movies with a first showing of a film produced exclusively for television.

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PLAN TO ATTEND THE SPRING

ROUND UP

U S C STAGE # 1 MAY 14 8:30PM

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Those of you in the Los Angeles area are invited to attend the ALPHA banquet at Mike Lyman's Hill St. MAY 15 SUNDAY 6:30 PM.

The ALPHA is initiating 16 students as actives....3 into the associate catagory....and 1 into Honorary standing.....

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Both chapters have by this time received their parchment charters bearing the names of the charter members. This project was made possible only through the cooperation of the art staff of IMPPRO productions..and we wish to thank them for their grand gesture and excellent workmanship.

MEMO TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

NATIONAL CINEMA FRATERNITY

1. Check on faculty advisor for Alpha Chapter - Harold Albert suggested.

2. All names and qualifications must be submitted to the National Board for approval or rejection before initiation.

3. Any action taken by any active Chapter which affects the Fraternity or department, school or college, must be cleared by the National Board.

4. All keys, pins, scrolls, etc., must be purchased through the National Treasurer and paid for in advance.

5. The executive board shall effect, at the earliest possible date, a meeting with the Alpha Chapter.

6. Check on the feasibility of a National banquet at the USC Cinema Department.

7. A letter authorizing Balfour & Co. and Wayers & Co. shall be written by the National President immediately.

8. The news letter shall be published monthly beginning immediately containing social, professional and technical articles.

9. A new membership directory shall be published as soon as possible. Attention: Herb Farmer.

10. A questionaire shall be included in the newsletter requiring information as discussed.

11. The National President shall write a personal letter to each member in arrears.

12. The Treasurer shall publish a list of delinquent members which shall be made available to the Board.

13. The National Constitution shall be printed as soon as possible. Attention: Herb Farmer.

14. All honorary, associate, or active members shall be passed upon by the National Board.

15. Special honorary classification shall be given to Slavko Vorkapich. He shall be inducted at the first banquet.

16. Request a list of the intended actives, associates and honoraries.